



## **PROVIDER ALERT**

### **Update Regarding Medication Management and Therapy Units**

**September 1, 2020**

To account for the system differences between the authorization platform used by the previous ASO vendor and Optum's Incedo system, the following changes are being made in the displayed number of units for Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes:

- Increase the number of units displayed for each E&M code to 26 per six-month span (applies to both initial and concurrent).
- Increase the number of units for outpatient therapy codes for Individual and Group Practices to 26 per six-months (applies to both initial and concurrent).

Outpatient Therapy codes for OMHC, Facility-based and SUD treatment services have not changed.

This change was necessary to allow providers to select sufficient units to avoid having to end-date an authorization and begin a new one in the middle of a six-month treatment span. A planned enhancement will allow units to be added to authorizations. Providers do not need to do anything to increase these units at this time. Do not enter an overlapping authorization as it will pend, and claims submitted against a pended authorization will deny.

#### Impact to Existing Authorizations

The change will apply to all new authorizations entered on August 28, 2020, and forward. Existing authorizations will be honored. Optum Maryland will be auto-updating authorizations that were submitted previously for 6 or 8, 12, or 24 units.

This change ensures that providers have flexibility based on patient clinical need. As always, all services provided must meet medical necessity and use of E&M codes in particular will be monitored for excessive or inappropriate use.

If you have questions about the information in this alert, please contact customer services at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team